

XXVI.—*A Further Contribution to the Ornithology of Cyprus.*

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I WAS again stationed in Cyprus in 1910 and up to the time of writing this in 1911 (May), and was consequently enabled to accumulate a good deal more information about the island's avifauna.

Several circumstances combined to make the period exceptionally interesting. First, the spring of 1910 was very wet: the rains continued until late, with the result that some of the lakes and reservoirs remained more or less supplied with water throughout the summer—of which circumstance many interesting species of birds took advantage and stayed to nest. The Great Crested Grebe, Dabchick, Coot, Moorhen, Lesser Tern, Garganey, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Marbled Duck, and Kentish Plover were amongst this class. Secondly, the winter of 1910–11, for two and a half months, was unprecedentedly severe; snow lay at intervals in the plains, and people were actually frozen to death; no one living in the island remembers such rigorous weather. The Anatolian Taurus must have been ice-bound from end to end, and in the Levant, Jerusalem had the unheard-of experience of being under snow. All kinds of unusual ornithological visitors, driven down, I presume, from the north, crowded into the island. Amongst those hitherto unrecorded were the Whooper Swan, White-fronted Goose, and Red-crested Pochard; Sheldrakes (Ruddy and Common), White-eyed Pochards, and other usually rare Ducks were to be bought for a few piastres apiece; Great Bustards were shot, and, to our horror, devoured by a station-master, who was unaware of our gold offered for a specimen. Little Bustards, Golden Plovers, and Woodcocks were abundant, and I shot twenty-six Lapwings from a carriage on the drive between Nicosia and Papho. Fieldfares, very rare as a rule, swarmed, and so did Mistletoe-Thrushes, whilst we actually obtained a Redwing.

\* See 'Ibis,' 1910, p. 385.—The numbers prefixed to the names are those of Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds.'

Great migrations of the Hawfinch and the Eastern Ring-ousel (both practically unknown here hitherto) occurred, and Greenfinches and Reed-Buntings were almost as common as Sparrows. Altogether it was a very remarkable year, and I do not suppose that such a season is likely to occur again for many a long day.

Apart from all this excitement, we managed to make some more regular observations. We obtained the Moustached Warbler; found the Stone-Curlew breeding, and took its eggs, as well as those of the Quail, Meadow-Pipit, Short-toed Lark, Great Spotted Cuckoo (with the Magpie as host), Roller, Bee-eater, Barn-Owl (which is clearly a resident), Cyprian Tree-Creeper, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Little Ringed Plover, and Cyprian Scops Owl. We proved with certainty that the Cyprian Pied Chat is only a summer visitor, that the Fantail-Warbler is a resident, and that many Crag-Martins stay throughout the year.

We obtained many rare Cyprian birds: the Spotted Redshank, Marsh-Sandpiper, Barred Warbler, a genuine Goshawk, a White-tailed Eagle, the Rock- and Blue Rock-Thrushes, the Red-spotted Bluethroat, and many others, details as to the more interesting of which I have given in the list below.

Much of the credit of the work thus done by members of the Cyprus Natural History Society is due to Mr. F. R. S. Baxendale, who, having been promoted to the Commissioner-ship of Famagusta, has diligently worked that rich marsh-district; to Mr. G. F. Wilson, who has scoured the Nicosia neighbourhood; and to Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Ansell, I.S.O., at Larnaca, with Horsbrugh at Pseuda. When, therefore, I speak of "we" I am only the chronicler, though I have, of course, handled all their specimens. For some identifications our best thanks are due to Dr. Hartert, the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, and Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

A word should be said about one special expedition. Mr. Baxendale, in the second week of May 1911, made a most interesting though short visit to the Klides Islands, which lie to the extreme north-east of Cyprus, at the end of

the forty-mile "horn": these islands are uninhabited, and are never visited except by an occasional fisherman; indeed, the last ten miles of the promontory are practically desolate. The largest island has a little coarse grass, a kind of stone-crop, and a spring of fresh water which is said to be dry in summer.

Mr. Baxendale found there the Mediterranean Gull breeding in considerable numbers and brought me several eggs, a Lesser Peregrine's nest with two young and one addled egg (four dead Quail and a Shearwater (?) formed the larder), also a few Slags which were nesting, a number of Rock-Doves, and a few Turtle-Doves. On the peninsula were many Wheatears, one or two Ruffs, nests of the Red-rumped Swallow (of which Mr. Baxendale took the eggs), and other common birds. The wind rose, and Mr. Baxendale had some difficulty in getting back to the mainland—a three-hours' row.

#### 1. *TURDUS VISCIVORUS* Linn.

The very severe weather in January and February 1911 brought in hundreds of Mistletoe-Thrushes, which were shot in numbers all over the island, and exposed for sale with strings of the Common Thrush in the bazaars. The last note that I had of their stay was on March 26th, but nearly all had gone by the end of the first week of that month.

#### 2. *TURDUS MUSICUS* Linn.

This species was exceptionally abundant last winter, and when the cold weather broke in mid-March it sang beautifully everywhere—not a usual occurrence here.

#### 7. *TURDUS ILIACUS* Linn.

Though fully expecting to come across the Redwing in the exceptionally cold winter of 1910-11, and though we all looked out for it carefully, I only discovered one—a male, obtained at Larnaca on February 24th by Mr. W. J. Ansell.

Schrader states that this species "is found everywhere"; but this is an error. This specimen is the first and only properly identified example from the island.

9. *TURDUS PILARIS* Linn.

Usually decidedly rare, the Fieldfare was quite common last winter. From October 30th, 1910, to the third week in February 1911 it appeared all over the island, but was particularly abundant in January and in the first week of February.

24. Subsp. *TURDUS ALPESTRIS* C. Brehm.

Though I mentioned this bird in my previous paper on the Ornithology of Cyprus, I had been unable to obtain a specimen to satisfy myself as to its identity.

However, on the 15th of July, 1910, Mr. G. F. Wilson saw a specimen on a rocky stream in the Troödos Mountains, and on October 13th an immature male was taken on bird-line at Ormidhia, near Larnaca, and sent to Mr. T. Greenwood. From him it went to Mr. G. F. Wilson, in whose collection I saw it.

None of these circumstances at all prepared us for what followed. Driven down, I imagine, by the heavy snows on the Taurus range in Cilicia, a regular swarm of the Eastern Ring-Ousel invaded the island about mid-February: one man shot twenty in one day! We obtained, of course, numerous specimens; many were sold as food in the bazaars. They frequented the gardens even in Nicosia town itself, and fed on ivy-berries. They mostly disappeared about the first week in March, though one was still to be seen in Nicosia as late as the 21st. No Cypriote, so far as I could ascertain, recognised or had ever seen the bird before.

25. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale saw a single Rock-Thrush at Kantara Castle (Kyrenia Mountains) on July 24th, 1910; he shot a fine adult female on the roof of a house at Famagusta on March 5th, 1911, and a splendid adult male at a place called Platanissa on the 23rd of the same month.

27. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.).

We have obtained several Blue Rock-Thrushes in different parts of the island during the last two years: in March, April, July, October, and November.

## 29. CINCLUS MELANOGASTER Brehm.

*Cinclus olympicus* Madarász.

At the beginning of July 1910 Mr. G. F. Wilson found three young birds, unable to fly, at the Caledonia Falls, on Troödos (5000 ft.). The Cyprian Dipper was often seen by me last summer in the same place.

## 46. SAXICOLA MORIO Hempr. &amp; Ehr.

*Saxicola cypriaca* E. F. Homeyer.

*Saxicola morio* Hempr. & Ehr.

We have cleared up satisfactorily the question of the status in Cyprus of the Cyprian Eastern Pied Chat by careful observation. It is not a resident, but only a summer visitor, and many individuals are merely birds of passage at the migrations. It leaves Cyprus at the end of October and beginning of November, and reappears about the second week in March. We all independently came to the same conclusion. Of course, we could not visit the mountains in the depth of winter, but it is hardly conceivable that the bird would stay on those bleak heights and flee from the hospitable plains.

## 55. SAXICOLA MELANOLEUCA (Güld.).

Mr. Baxendale obtained two more specimens of the "Eastern" form of the Black-throated Wheatear near Famagusta, both males, on March 21st and April 2nd, 1910, respectively. They were kindly identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

## 56. SAXICOLA ALBICOLLIS (Vieill.).

(A) *Saxicola amphileuca* Ehr.

(B) *Saxicola hispanica xanthomelena* = *S. albicollis* Temm.

Apparently we get both the Eastern and Western forms of the Black-eared Wheatear here on migration. Mr. Baxendale shot a male on April 3rd, 1910, of A (the Eastern form) at Famagusta, and a male and female of B near the same place on the 7th and 8th of April, 1911. They were all kindly identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

## 57. SAXICOLA FINSCHI Heugl.

Further observation proves that the Arabian Chat is quite a common winter visitor on suitable ground. It

arrives about the middle of November and leaves at the end of March.

We obtained numbers, a good many of which were identified by Mr. Nicoll.

63. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA* Rüpp.

Schrader states that the Isabelline Chat arrives at the end of February and remains till nearly the end of September. We have never managed to obtain it yet, though we have shot many Chats during the last two years.

94. *CYANECULA SUECICA* (Linn.).

The Red-spotted Bluethroat is no doubt a regular winter visitor, and may probably be found in any really suitable locality. At the freshwater lake near Famagusta—an ideal place for the bird—Mr. Baxendale has obtained some half a dozen specimens in October, January, February, and March during the past two winters, and has seen several more.

109. *SYLVIA NISORIA* (Bechst.).

The Barred Warbler is evidently a migrant in autumn, and perhaps, too, in the spring, though we have not yet obtained it at that season. On the Kyrenia range, in mid-September, Mr. Baxendale procured three examples, one of which was identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

122. *SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA* (Linn.).

The Blackcap we had under observation in Nicosia during the whole of the winter, and at intervals we shot a specimen; so there can be no doubt that some numbers stay.

Mr. Pierides, Mr. Horsbrugh, and others watched carefully the strings of "Beccaficoes" brought to the Larnaca market by the peasants during the autumn migration in 1910, with rather interesting results. Amongst the bag of "limed" birds taken in the first half of October were over a hundred Robins, several Common Redstarts, Lesser Whitethroats, Cyprian Pied Chats, and an Eastern Ring-Ousel; and in September a Kingfisher (*Alcedo isipida*).

## 123. SYLVIA ORPHEA Temm.

*Sylvia jerdoni* (Blyth).*Sylvia hortensis crassirostris* Hartert, Vög. Pal. Faun. i. p. 581.

The Orphean Warbler is evidently a regular visitor on migration in spring and autumn. We obtained several at the end of March, the beginning of April, the end of August, and the beginning of September in different localities. Dr. Hartert was kind enough to identify a few which I sent to him.

## 126. SYLVIA MELANOTHORAX Tristram.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain kindly pointed out in this Journal (1910, pp. 216 & 217) that the eggs of the Palestine Warbler were taken by Glaszner in 1906, and that two clutches are in the Tring Museum. Glaszner is a very careful collector, and I have no doubt that he is correct in his identification. The bird certainly nests in places on the Kyrenia hills, as Mr. Baxendale found and obtained both old and young near Kantara in August and September; he says it is of very skulking habits in the bushes, and cocks its tail like a Dartford Warbler. The nest, Glaszner says, is extremely hard to find.

## 136. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.).

We obtained a number of specimens of the Willow-Wren in the spring and autumn; it appears to arrive about the middle of March, and reappear in August and September.

## 137. PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX (Bechst.).

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix erlangeri* Hartert.

I sent a rather brightly-coloured male Wood-Wren, shot by Mr. G. F. Wilson at Nicosia on April 26th, to Mr. M. J. Nicoll, who pronounced it to belong to Hartert's subspecies.

## 138. PHYLLOSCOPUS BONELLII (Vieill.).

*Phylloscopus bonellii orientalis* Hartert.

Mr. Baxendale shot a male Bonelli's Warbler at Famagusta on April 8th, 1911, which Mr. M. J. Nicoll states belongs to the form mentioned above.

168. *ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS* (Vicill.).

The Reed-Warbler turns out to be not uncommon in suitable places. We obtained several from March 12th to May 17th. It is quite probable that some nest in the reed-beds in the neighbourhood of Famagusta; nearly all our specimens came from the freshwater lake near that town. Apparently it does not occur in winter.

170. *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS* (Linn.).

*Acrocephalus turdoides*, B. O. U. List, p. 19.

The Great Reed-Warbler we find to be a regular and not uncommon spring and autumn visitor to localities where there are reedy marshes. Mr. Baxendale, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Horsbrugh shot and saw specimens in various localities between March 26th and the first week in May, mostly at the freshwater lake and Acheritou reservoir.

175. *ACROCEPHALUS SCHÆNOBÆNUS* (Linn.).

*Acrocephalus phragmitis* (Bechst.) B. O. U. List, p. 20.

We find the Sedge-Warbler a regular spring and autumn migrant in suitable places. Mr. Baxendale obtained and observed numerous specimens at the freshwater lake and Koukليا reservoir between March 10th and the middle of May, and again in October.

182. *LUSCINIOLA MELANOPOGON* (Temm.).

I am glad to be able to add the Moustached Warbler to the list of Cyprus birds. Mr. Baxendale obtained a male in good plumage on March 19th, 1911, at the freshwater lake, Famagusta.

194. *CETTIA CETTII* (Marm.).

*Cettia sericea* (Temm.) B. O. U. List, p. 22.

Mr. Baxendale heard Cetti's Warbler at the freshwater lake, Famagusta, in May, though he did not obtain a specimen; but on June 6th, 1909, he shot at Papho a very juvenile example, which Mr. M. J. Nicoll, who kindly identified it, considers must have been bred in the island. It is evidently uncommon.



199. *CISTICOLA CURSITANS* (Franklin).

Careful investigation has proved that the Fantail-Warbler is a resident in some localities. At the freshwater lake, Famagusta, Mr. Baxendale had it under observation the whole year, and it bred there in some numbers; the young birds left the nest during the first week in June.

287. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS* Linn.

*Certhia brachydactyla dorotheæ* Hartert.

I found a nest of the Cypriote Tree-Creeper, with young and one unfertile egg, in a hole in a wall on Troödos (at about 5000 feet) in early July 1910. The ground-colour of the eggs was whitish, and the obtuse end was thickly zoned with reddish-brown blotches. Size: 16 × 12 mm.

313. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS* (Linn.).

I think that a few Meadow-Pipits must nest with us, as on May 7th, 1910, I had four fresh eggs brought to me, taken in the fields close to Nicosia, which I cannot ascribe to any other bird. The species is abundant from November to April.

315. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS* (Linn.).

We obtained a few Tree-Pipits during September.

317. *ANTHUS CERVINUS* (Pall.).

We found the Red-throated Pipit quite abundant on both migrations, and obtained specimens between March 18th and May 2nd, and again between September 26th and November 8th.

323. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS* (Linn.).

I had two eggs brought to me on May 7th, 1910, taken on the ground near Nicosia. They are certainly Pipits', and I think probably those of the Tawny Pipit. Mr. Jourdain, who saw one, could not express any confident opinion as to their identity. They were certainly neither Meadow- nor Tree-Pipits' eggs.

The Tawny Pipit must be very uncommon in Cyprus, as none of us have ever got a specimen.

379. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS* Bechstein.

We found the White-collared Flycatcher fairly common everywhere at the end of March and in April.

388. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA* Linn.

In 1910 a Swallow arrived with a small bell attached to its foot and nested in my stable. I could not ascertain that the bell had been attached by anyone in the island. I caught the bird and examined the bell—a child's toy. The bird hatched its young, and did not return—at any rate, with the bell—this year.

393. *HIRUNDO RUFULA* Temm.

Our observations now shew that the Red-rumped Swallow arrives at the end of March and in early April, leaving in early September: earliest date March 23rd, and latest date September 26th. Mr. Baxendale found it nesting in abundance near Kantara Castle, and took fresh eggs on May 10th.

396. *CHELIDON URBICA* (Linn.).

The House-Martin arrives about the last week in March, and leaves at the beginning of October. I found numbers in the Kyrenia Pass, on the northern range. Mr. Baxendale saw a single bird on December 11th, 1910, at the freshwater lake.

400. *COTYLE RIPARIA* (Linn.).

The Sand-Martin was found quite regularly in spring and autumn—in April and again in mid-October.

402. *COTYLE RUPESTRIS* Scop.

The Crag-Martin is a partial resident, and considerable numbers frequent the rocky southern coasts of the island throughout the winter. I found them near Papho even in the bitter January of this year: they are well known there to the local sportsmen as “*πετροχελιδόνι.*” I found them also nesting in the Kyrenia Pass along with the House-Martin.

407. *CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS* (Linn.).

Schrader stated that the Siskin "appears in autumn," but, so far, I have nothing to add to my previous notes on this species.

412. *SERINUS HORTULANUS* Koch.

I found young Serins leaving the nest on Troödos in early July.

416. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS* Linn.

*Ligurinus chloris aurantiventris* (Cab.).

My previous notes on the occurrence of a Greenfinch in Cyprus require considerable amplification. First, Dr. Hartert tells me that Glaszner sent five specimens to the Tring Museum, taken in March 1905; secondly, in February and March of both 1910 and 1911 Greenfinches have occurred in Cyprus in abundance. We obtained numerous specimens from all parts of the island, and scores were exposed for sale as food in the bazaars. The colouring varied somewhat: some were vividly bright, others comparatively sober. I sent a few to Mr. M. J. Nicoll, and two to Dr. Hartert: the former says that they appear to be nearest *L. c. aurantiventris*; the latter that they are very nearly as bright as *L. c. aurantiventris*, and probably the same as the bird from Greece called *L. c. mühleii* by Parrot (Journ. f. Orn. 1905, p. 649).

However, this last March we obtained some most brilliant specimens, which are, I should think, certainly *L. c. aurantiventris*. They had all left by the middle of March.

The Greenfinch is clearly an abundant winter visitor in some years.

421. *COCCOTHAUSTES VULGARIS* Pall.

A horde of Hawfinches invaded Cyprus during the very cold weather in 1911. My first record was on January 31st, and my last on March 23rd. We obtained quite a number in various localities. I suppose that they were driven over from the Cilician Taurus, then a vast snow-covered mass—a glorious sight from Kyrenia. Old residents here tell me

that some years ago the species occurred once before in the island in small numbers.

426. *PASSER HISPANIOLENSIS* (Temm.).

I do not think that the Spanish Sparrow is common in Cyprus. Mr. Baxendale shot a fine male on March 22nd, 1911, in the Famagusta district, which, to make sure of, we had identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

458. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (Linn.).

*Linota cannabina mediterranea* Tschusi.

Mr. W. J. Ansell sent me what I thought was a strange-looking bird of the Linnet type; on submitting it to Mr. Nicoll, he identified it as *L. c. mediterranea* Tschusi. It was shot on February 22nd, 1911. I certainly do not think this is the ordinary form which we get here.

515. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA* Linn.

The Ortolan is evidently not quite so uncommon as I supposed, and is no doubt a regular visitor in small numbers on the migrations. Schrader stated that "it appears about April 26th and stays over the summer"; but I am doubtful whether this is correct. Mr. Wilson shot a male on September 8th, 1909, near Nicosia, and Mr. Baxendale a female from a small flock in the Famagusta district on May 6th, 1910. Both were identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

517. *EMBERIZA CÆSIA* Cretzschm.

Mr. A. K. Bovitt found Cretzschmar's Bunting nesting this year on the Kyrenia mountains, and brought me two eggs taken from a nest at the root of a cistus bush growing out of a bank. They measure  $\cdot 78 \times \cdot 63$  and  $\cdot 78 \times \cdot 62$  inch respectively: they were taken on May 6th and were slightly incubated.

533. *EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS* Linn.

*Emberiza schæniclus canneti* Hartert.

The Reed-Bunting, hitherto only once recorded from Cyprus, is another species which has come before us very prominently on closer investigation of the marshes. It is evidently quite a regular and almost abundant winter

visitor to suitable localities from the beginning of November till the end of March. We obtained numerous specimens in the reed-beds near the Limassol salt-lake, at the fresh-water lake, Famagusta, near Nicosia, and at Morphou. Indeed, at the second-mentioned locality Mr. Baxendale has seen hundreds. I sent a few to Dr. Hartert and Mr. Nicoll, who identify them as *E. s. canneti*, the South-European form.

558. *CORYDUS CRISTATUS* (Linn.).

*Alauda cristata* Linn, B. O. U. List, p. 171.

*Galerita cristata cypriaca* Bianchi.

I sent a number of Crested Larks collected in different parts of the island in the spring of 1910 to Mr. Nicoll. They were all identified by him as *G. c. cypriaca* Bianchi (Bull. Acad. Sci. Petersburg, 1907, xxv. p. 65).

560. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA* (Leisl.).

Some numbers of Short-toed Larks nest in the island, as I had half a dozen clutches of fresh eggs brought to me during May 1910.

Migrating flocks occurred in April and mid-October.

567. *STURNUS VULGARIS* Linn.

568. *STURNUS PURPURASCENS* Gould.

*Sturnus porphyronotus* Sharpe.

569. *STURNUS POLTARATSKYI* Finsch.

*Sturnus vulgaris græcus* Tschusi & Reiser.

*Sturnus vulgaris balcanicus* Buturlin & Harms.

Older residents in Cyprus than I am had told me of the large flights of Starlings which visit the island during some winters. From the beginning of November till about the middle of March in the winter of 1909-10 very large flocks occurred. In Nicosia and its outskirts, which are well-provided with groves of tall eucalyptus and other trees, great companies numbering many thousands roosted nightly, streaming in in serried ranks just before dusk and wheeling out at dawn, running a fusillade from dozens of native gunners posted just outside the municipal limits (within

which one may not fire guns), and watched always high overhead by half a dozen Hawks. The trees were covered with the birds, and the noise of their chattering was deafening. But in such big packs they have none of the airs and graces of our familiar bird at home in England and none of their imitative and pretty notes, but only a ceaseless squeak. My impression is that the large majority were *S. purpurascens*, and the most unaccomplished observer could see and hear that most of them were not our English bird. We obtained, of course, numerous specimens. In the winter of 1910-11 no such invasion occurred, though the usual scattered parties appeared as they always do. I sent a number away for identification to Dr. Hartert and Mr. Nicoll.

## 616. CYPSELUS MELBA (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale discovered hundreds of the White-bellied Swift nesting in June and July near Kantara Castle. Our observations shew that it arrives at the end of February and beginning of March (earliest date, February 20th), and leaves towards the end of September (last date, September 28th).

## 663. CORACIAS GARRULUS Linn.

We found the Roller nesting in many localities in May and June.

## 669. UPUPA EPOPS Linn.

Mr. Nicolls found a nest with young in a hole in a wall on Troödos, on June 2nd, 1910.

## 674. COCCYSTES GLANDARIUS (Linn.).

We took seven eggs of the Great Spotted Cuckoo in clutches of Magpies' eggs in April and May 1910.

## 689. ASIO ACCIPITRINUS (Pall.).

*Asio brachyotus*, B. O. U. List, p. 86.

We have obtained several examples of the Short-eared Owl in the winters of the last two years.

## 692. SCOPS CYPRIUS (Mad.).

In April and May 1910 I obtained several clutches of eggs

of the Cyprian Scops Owl: one of six from the side of a deep-walled well and another from a hole in an unused building.

709. *ALUCO FLAMMEUS* (Linn.).

*Strix flammea*, B. O. U. List, p. 85.

There is no doubt, now, that the Barn-Owl is a resident, as we obtained at Larnaca a female and three young alive on May 2nd, 1910, and I took a clutch of three fresh eggs from a hole in a cliff near Nicosia on March 18th, 1911.

We obtained other specimens of the bird in January, May, and September.

718. *CIRCUS SWAINSONI* Smith.

The Pallid Harrier is quite common: in the first week of April 1910 there was quite a large migration, and Horsbrugh obtained several examples; the crop of one contained a Little Owl.

721. *BUTEO VULGARIS* Leach.

Horsbrugh shot a female on the 21st of March, 1910, at Koukليا reservoir: its crop contained a small snake and some lizards and scorpions.

730. *HIERAËTUS FASCIATUS* (Vieill.).

I had a pair of eggs of Bonelli's Eagle sent to me by Mr. R. L. Michell of Limassol. They were highly incubated, but proved amenable to strong caustic potash; they were taken in the Troödos range on February 12th, 1911, and each measured 2·7 × 2·1 inches.

735. *AQUILA HELIACA* Savigny.

We were lucky enough to obtain several specimens of the Imperial Eagle in different parts of the island: one, a fine male, was knocked over, whilst feeding on a dead sheep, by a stone thrown by a peasant, and brought alive to Horsbrugh at Larnaca.

739. *HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA* (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale shot a large immature male on November 16th, 1910, feeding on carrion not far from Famagusta.

This is the first specimen of the White-tailed Eagle actually obtained in the island.

745. *ASTUR PALUMBARIUS* (Linn.).

It is satisfactory to be able to remove any doubt as to the occurrence of the Goshawk in Cyprus. When shooting in a thick fir wood near Asprokremno, on Troödos, on the opening day of the season last year (August 12th), Mr. H. McLaughlan, who was with me, shot a fine immature male. To make certain of its identity I sent it to Mr. Nicoll.

756. *PERNIS APIVORUS* (Linn.).

Mr. G. F. Wilson shot a fine Honey-Buzzard near Nicosia on September 18th, 1910.

765. *FALCO PUNICUS* Levaill.

The Lesser Peregrine was found nesting on the Klides Islands by Mr. Baxendale, who discovered an eyrie with two young birds and an unfertile egg on a ledge of rock with an overhanging top: the nestlings were white with white legs and pale bluish bills; they were lying on the bare rock, and the old birds were both close by. One nestling was much bigger than the other, and the two parents were considerably different in size. The egg measured 2.06 × 1.547 inches.

770. *FALCO ELEONORÆ* Gené.

The Rev. J. Smale kindly gave to me a fine male specimen of La Marmora's Falcon, which he had shot on Troödos on August 6th, 1909.

771. *FALCO VESPERTINUS* Linn.

*Tinnunculus vespertinus* Gray, B. O. U. List, p. 103.

We find that the Red-footed Falcon is a regular visitor in spring and autumn. Large parties, consisting of from a dozen to over a hundred birds, appeared at the end of April and beginning of May 1910, and we noticed a good many at the beginning of September and end of October of the same year—mostly young birds. We obtained numerous examples.

776. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO* (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale bought a male Cormorant from a native gunner at Famagusta on December 22nd, 1910.



## 788. ARDEA CINEREA Linn.

A few Grey Herons remained in the marshes near Famagusta throughout the winter.

## 789. ARDEA PURPUREA Linn.

We obtained the Purple Heron on both migrations, from the end of March till the beginning of June, and again in mid-October. It is quite common.

## 800. NYCTICORAX GRISEUS (Linn.).

We also obtained the Night-Heron on both migrations—from mid-April till the beginning of June, and from mid-August till mid-September. It is fairly common.

## 824. ANSER ALBIFRONS (Scop.).

The White-fronted Goose was one of the species new for Cyprus which the exceptionally cold winter brought us: A female was shot by Mr. G. B. Amirayan's shikari in December 1910, from a party of three on some flats near the sea, at a place called Aphendrika, in the Famagusta district, and was given to Mr. Baxendale. Another was shot on the Larnaca lakes early in 1911, and acquired for Mr. Ansell's collection.

## 837. CYGNUS MUSICUS Bechst.

The Whooper Swan was another of last winter's additions to the Cypriote list. About Christmas I heard reports that Wild Swans were round the coasts, and on December 28th, 1910, Mr. Baxendale bought a young male Whooper from a native gunner. It had been shot on the Spathariko Marsh, close to the sea in the Famagusta district; it was in poor condition; its flesh, though dark, was tender, but rather flavourless. The gunner had watched it for several days, and it had, to use his words, "smelt his powder" more than once before he eventually shot it from a shelter.

It was said that there was a flock of fourteen individuals in the neighbourhood.

About the same time "a pure white Swan" was for sale in Limassol market, but was eaten before I could ascertain to what species it belonged.

CHENALOEPEX ÆGYPTIACUS (Linn.).

The Egyptian Goose appeared almost immediately after the first rains in December 1910: first four, then seven appeared on a little marsh near Nicosia, where they remained till about March 10th. They were too wary for us.

839. TADORNA CORNUTA (S. G. Gmel.).

Common Sheldrakes were very abundant from the middle of December 1910 until the end of February 1911 all over the island. They were excellent eating.

840. TADORNA CASARCA (Linn.).

Quite a number of Ruddy Sheldrakes visited the coast in January 1911, and we obtained several.

844. CHAULELASMUS STREPERUS (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale obtained the Gadwall at Koukليا reservoir at the end of May 1910, and two specimens in December 1910 in the Famagusta neighbourhood.

845. SPATULA CLYPEATA (Linn.).

The Shoveler has been very abundant from October to April during the past two winters; a few pairs nested at Koukليا reservoir, and I obtained a clutch of eight eggs from there on May 14th, 1910.

846. MARMARONETTA ANGUSTIROSTRIS (Ménétr.).

The pretty Marbled Duck appeared in some numbers in the middle of April 1910 at the reservoirs, and a few pairs remained to nest at Koukليا. I obtained a clutch of seven highly incubated eggs from Koukليا on July 5th, and several young birds were shot there on the 1st of September—the opening day for Duck-shooting.

848. QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA (Linn.).

The Garganey appeared in early April, and some nested at Koukليا. I obtained a clutch of nine eggs there on May 14th, and some young birds were shot in September. We also obtained one or two specimens during the winter.

856. *ÆTHYIA RUFINA* (Pall.).

The Red-crested Pochard was another visitor during last winter not hitherto recorded from Cyprus. A big flock must have reached the island at the beginning of December 1910, and Mr. Baxendale at Famagusta, Horsbrugh at Larnaca, and I at Nicosia, all bought birds in our respective bazaars on the 3rd. From that date up till the middle of February they were common all round the island, and even inland. They are very good on the table.

859. *ÆTHYIA FULIGULA* (Linn.).

*Fuligula cristata*, B. O. U. List, p. 129.

A few Tufted Ducks stayed at Koukليا reservoir during the summer of 1910, and I obtained eggs on July 1st.

860. *ÆTHYIA NYROCA* (Güld.).

*Nyroca ferruginea*, B. O. U. List, p. 130.

Young White-eyed Ducks were shot at Koukليا on September 1st, and I think it is probable that they were bred there. We obtained a few specimens last winter.

877. *ERISMATURA LEUCOCEPHALA* (Scop.).

The White-headed Duck again appeared at the end of December 1910, Horsbrugh having obtained a female in the Larnaca market.

895. *TURTUR COMMUNIS* Selby.

We find that the Turtle-Dove nests fairly commonly in suitable localities in the *plains*: Horsbrugh took several clutches of eggs in his almond plantations at Pseuda in June.

904. *PTEROCLES ARENARIUS* (Pall.).

Bunches of the Black-bellied Sand-Grouse seem to have dropped in, to swell the few residents, from the middle of September 1910 until the middle of November. At the river near Pyroi, a few miles from Nicosia, which at that date, before the rains, was one of the few places offering plenty of water, literally hundreds came down to drink: Mr. G. F. Wilson shot many. When the rains broke they

no doubt scattered over the country, and only occasionally were a few seen. Of about a dozen Sand-Grouse which I handled all were of this species. Mr. Baxendale sent his three live birds to Major Boyd Horsbrugh, by whom they were deposited in the London Zoological Gardens.

911. PHASIANUS COLCHICUS Linn.

In my previous notes in this Journal I mentioned our attempt to re-introduce the Pheasant. We divided our twenty-eight birds into two lots—one under the care of Mr. Barrett at the Athalassa farm near Nicosia, and the rest in Mr. T. Greenwood's aviaries at Larnaca. To the first lot a sad disaster happened, as in the spring, owing to the carelessness of a servant, a door of one of the pens was left ajar, and a fox got in and killed all except one cock and one hen, which escaped into the plantations. I turned out there another hen, as the cock was frequently seen again.

Mr. Greenwood was very successful, and had far more eggs than he could deal with: he reared some sixty birds. The early broods did very well, but those hatched in May remained stunted and dwarfed by the great heat of the summer, and only attained full growth when about eight months old. We turned out a number of birds high up on the Tröodos range in February this year, and others in one of the game-reserved areas. It is too early yet to say how they will eventually fare, but we know that some of the hens are sitting on eggs in the woods.

958. COTURNIX COMMUNIS Bonnaterre.

I found that the Quail breeds fairly freely in the barley, and I had eggs in early April from several different localities. I can often hear its nice little note all night from my bedroom window.

984. RALLUS AQUATICUS Linn.

The Water-Rail we find to be a very common winter visitor from the beginning of October till the middle of March in all suitable localities. I had notes of quite thirty examples being shot last winter.

## 986. PORZANA MARUETTA (Leach).

The Spotted Crake we find very common in likely spots at the migrations, and a few stay for the winter: Mr. Baxendale thinks that some may have bred at the freshwater lake in May 1910, but they had all gone from there by June 3rd. We obtained specimens in March, April, May, October, and November.

## 987. PORZANA BAILLONI (Vicill.).

We obtained specimens of Baillon's Crake in March and April at the freshwater lake.

## 989. PORZANA PARVA (Scop.).

The Little Crake seems quite common in March and April at the freshwater lake, and Mr. Baxendale obtained one there as early as February 26th, 1911.

## 993. CREX PRATENSIS Bechst.

I had never heard the Corn-Crake call in Cyprus, but Mr. G. F. Wilson detected one on April 23rd, 1911, near Nicosia, walked it up and shot it. We got two more in the autumn of 1910.

## 998. GALLINULA CHLOROPUS (Linn.).

The Water-hen nested in the summer of 1910 on Limassol salt-lake, whence Mr. Michell sent me eggs taken in May.

## 999. FULICA ATRA Linn.

The Coot bred in very large numbers on Koukليا reservoir in the summer of 1910. I saw many eggs in April and May.

## 1010. OTIS TARDA Linn.

The Great Bustard occurred during the very cold weather of February 1911. We heard rumours of Wild Turkeys and offered ample rewards. Five were said to be at a place called Beila in the Larnaca district, and eventually a peasant found three near a village called Stroullos, and winged one with a long shot from his muzzle-loader. He chased it, according to his own account, for many miles, and despatched it, after what he vividly described as

a desperate struggle, with repeated blows of his heavy dagger-knife. He brought the dilapidated monster (it weighed 19 lbs. without much blood in it) to Mr. Greenwood, who passed it to Glaszner to be skinned. Glaszner could do nothing with it, so Mr. Greenwood ate it and sent me the head! the flesh was dark and of good flavour. It was the head of an undoubted *Otis tarda*. About the 21st of February a peasant brought a specimen to one of the railway-stations called Styllos, on the Nicosia-Famagusta line: only the feathers of the wing, a foot, and some sad relics greeted Mr. Baxendale on his arrival in frantic haste at the scene: the station-master had, unknowingly, paid ten piastres and devoured a sovereign.

Enquiries elicited that there were three birds in this party. We heard no more of them.

1012. *TETRAX CAMPESTRIS* Leach.

*Otis tetrix* Linn. B. O. U. List, p. 154.

Quite a number of Little Bustards appeared in Cyprus in December 1909 and January 1910. I had notes of about a dozen being shot, and we obtained some good specimens. They are excellent eating.

1015. *ŒDICNEMUS SCOLOPAX* (S. G. Gmel.).

I had a fresh egg of the Stone-Curlew sent to me from Famagusta on May 7th, 1910: so we may conclude that some individuals nest with us.

1016. *GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA* (Linn.).

The Pratincole is evidently a regular visitor on its migrations. Mr. Baxendale obtained a male Pratincole from a flock of twenty at Koukليا reservoir on April 24th, 1910, and again observed the bird there on April 17th this year: he also obtained it at the same place on October 14th, 1910.

1022. *SQUATAROLA HELVETICA* (Linn.).

I am glad to confirm the alleged occurrence of the Grey Plover in Cyprus. Mr. Baxendale shot two from a flock of eight at Famagusta harbour on November 30th, 1910, and another on January 3rd, 1911, at the same place.

1038. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA* (Lath.).

The Kentish Plover nested in considerable numbers on the margins of the freshwater lake in early June 1910 and in May 1911, and Mr. Baxendale obtained several clutches of eggs.

1032. *ÆGIALITIS CURONICA* (Gmel.).

Mr. Baxendale found the Little Ringed Plover nesting at the freshwater lake near Famagusta this spring, and obtained eggs in early May.

1046. *RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA* Linn.

Mr. J. W. Ansell obtained a single Avocet on November 28th, 1910, at the Larnaca Salt Lake.

1047. *HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS* Bonnat.

The Black-winged Stilt remained in small numbers throughout the summer of 1910 at Kouklia reservoir and the Larnaca lakes, and though we did not obtain the eggs, I have no doubt that it nested in both places. We obtained juvenile specimens in the former locality on September 1st.

1050. *SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA* Linn.

The winter 1910-1911 was a famous one for Woodcock : one party shot forty in two days, and twenty-six were obtained in one wood on February 12th, 1911.

1052. *GALLINAGO MAJOR* (Gmel.).

Mr. Baxendale shot a female Great Snipe near Famagusta on May 6th, 1910, and a very heavy male at the freshwater lake on April 26th, 1911.

1067. *TRINGA MINUTA* Leisl.

We obtained a good many Little Stints in May and October.

1072. *TRINGA SUBARQUATA* (Güld.).

The Curlew Sandpiper was quite common in the winter on the coast near Famagusta, where Mr. Baxendale shot a number of these birds. They are quite good on the table.

1080. *MACHETES PUGNAX* (Linn.).

We found the Ruff abundant in all suitable localities from October to June.

1083. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS* (Linn.).

We obtained a good many Redshanks during the winter in the Famagusta marshes and near Larnaca.

1084. *TOTANUS FUSCUS* (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale shot a fine male Spotted Redshank at Agasida marsh on February 28th, 1911.

1085. *TOTANUS GLOTTIS* Naum.

Mr. Baxendale obtained a female at the Famagusta harbour on April 22nd, 1911.

1087. *TOTANUS STAGNATILIS* Bechst.

The Marsh-Sandpiper is probably a regular migrant. Mr. Baxendale shot five in April 1910 and 1911, all at the freshwater lake.

1089. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS* (Linn.).

*Helodromas ochropus*, B. O. U. List, p. 174.

We found the Green Sandpiper quite common from September to April.

1091. *TOTANUS GLAREOLA* (Gmel.).

The Wood-Sandpiper we also found common from October to May.

1101. *LIMOSA BELGICA* (Gmel.).

The Black-tailed Godwit occurred in some numbers in June, September, January, and February. We obtained a number of specimens.

1111. *HYDROCHELIDON LEUCOPTERA* (Schinz).

The White-winged Black Tern appeared in considerable numbers at the freshwater lake in May 1910 and April 1911. Mr. Baxendale obtained several examples.

1122. *STERNA MINUTA* Linn.

The Little Tern nested in 1910 in some numbers at the freshwater lake and on the islands round Famagusta harbour. We obtained fresh eggs in June. It appeared in 1910 on May 14th, and in 1911 on April 22nd.



1133. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS* Linn.

We obtained several Black-headed Gulls during the past winter: one shot on March 10th had a well-developed black head.

1139. *LARUS MINUTUS* Pall.

The Little Gull occurred in small numbers at the Larnaca lakes at the end of February 1911, and Mr. Ansell obtained some specimens.

1140. *LARUS CANUS* Linn.

We obtained two examples of the Common Gull during the past winter.

1145. Subsp. *LARUS CACHINNANS* Pall.

Mr. Baxendale found the Mediterranean Herring-Gull breeding in considerable numbers on the Klides Islands during May 1911, and also on the adjacent promontories of the mainland. He took fresh and slightly incubated eggs on May 11th. The nests were in slight depressions of the ground and were composed of coarse grass; those on the islands were situated on the top or on the sides of the highest part of the land. The eggs were of the usual Gull type, and the clutch was three.

1147. *LARUS FUSCUS* Linn.

I observed half a dozen Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the sea-coast near Kyrenia in mid-April 1911.

1213. *PODICIPES CRISTATUS* (Linn.).

The Great Crested Grebe can always now be found on the reservoirs when there is water: it bred in numbers on Koukليا last year, and we obtained plenty of eggs.

1216. *PODICIPES NIGRICOLLIS* E. L. Brehm.

Although we did not find the nest last spring, I have no doubt that the Eared Grebe bred at Koukليا: it can always be seen there now.

1217. *PODICIPES FLUVIATILIS* (Tunstall).

The Little Grebe bred in large numbers on Koukليا reservoir last summer, and we had fresh eggs in mid-May.